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Editorial: Dilemmas of changing security and defense scenarios

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Editorial: Dilemmas of changing security and defense scenarios

Editorial: Dilemas de los escenarios cambiantes en seguridad y defensa

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We present our readers with Number 31 of the *Revista Científica General José María Córdova* (Colombian Journal of Military and Strategic Studies), which, thanks to its growing demand, continues to extend the number of articles published for the interest of its readership and the entire national and international scientific community.

At present, the spread of COVID-19 in Colombia and the world is a complex situation. There are no right or wrong answers; we can only aspire to find the best within the options. In this sense, the pandemic fits the definition of a dilemma exactly. Any decision seeking to benefit one aspect of the problem also implies the detriment to another. It all becomes starker with the National Government's activation of the state of emergency, one of the states of exception contemplated by the Constitution to face extraordinary situations that transcend its ordinary functions.

Dr. Néstor Osuna, professor at the Universidad Externado de Colombia, observes that only a state of siege was provided for in the 1886 Constitution until 1968 when the constitutional reform provided the option of having specific states of exception for economic emergencies. This strategy was initially used by former presidents Lleras Restrepo (1966-1970) and López Michelsen (1974-1978). Currently, Chapter 6 of the Colombian Political Constitution and Law 137 of 1994 explains the three states of exception, state of

inter-state war, state of internal commotion, and state of emergency. The most recent activation of the state of emergency before the pandemic was during the disaster in Mocoa in 2017, caused by the overflow of three rivers that swept through the capital of Putumayo.

The pandemic has produced social and strategic changes with unforeseeable consequences. Quarantines, curfews, or even the closure of some economic activities imply drastic restrictions on the freedoms of movement, assembly, education, and expression, as well as the exercise of economic and professional activities. Given the extraordinary nature of the situation, these restrictions have been enacted through legislative decrees. However, these exceptional powers, which do not require congressional approval and are only controlled and limited by the Constitutional Court, are still pending the establishment of their legal limits.

Thus, dilemmas arise in finding the perfect balance between individual freedoms and emergency attention. Similarly, they arise in other aspects of the situation: What are the security implications? What role should the government, the private sector, and civil society play to counteract this economic and public health crisis? What are the consequences of these measures, and the pandemic's, in the various idiosyncratic territories? How has the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the protection of human rights been affected? There is no distinct answer in this situation, but rather, various responses that emerge as alternatives that are mutually contesting, and whose validity is debated within the dilemma's complex framework.

As a space for the diffusion of the most recent research and scientific contributions, the *Revista Científica General José María Córdova* addresses possible answers to these and other challenges with ten new articles that address issues in various topics of interest to our respected national and international readership. This issue sets off with the article "Airpower and the concept of centers of gravity: The battle of Britain as a case study." Its authors, both Army officers, draw on concepts of war, such as *centers of gravity*, to understand, in terms of military strategy, the determining capabilities and vulnerabilities in battle. The next article, from Lima, Peru, analyzes the "The relationship between universal values and academic commitment in Peruvian Army and Navy cadets." Based on Schwartz's universal values, the author demonstrates the importance of this relationship and its determining factors through a robust study. In "What the norm represents for young police officers and factors influencing its enforcement," we see how police officers value the training received and find coherence between the norm and their daily work. Even so, in practice, they face risk factors that induce non-compliance with the norm.

The fourth article, "Collective insecurity: responses to the unexpected," addresses the potential contention of government strategies to deal with the pandemic, as an exercise of power that restricts individual freedoms and generates risk exposure inequalities. The fifth article, "The Colombian peace process and its regional implications in 2019," describes the transformation of the internal armed conflict, resulting from the process of implementing the Final Agreement, as well as its achievements, limitations, and chal-

lenges. In the sixth article, “Creating intercultural dialogue scenarios to eliminate female genital mutilation,” the author analyzes this practice’s cultural motivations and the need for an intercultural approach with the communities to reach an agreement on its eradication. In “Colombian military doctrine in officers’ practices during the internal armed conflict (1995-1998),” the author, an Army officer, examines the military doctrine and its appropriation by the officers of the Armed Forces in their daily work, during a challenging period of the armed conflict in the country.

Then, the eighth article, “Challenges for the police service in preventing unlawful recruitment in the post-agreement,” from a strategic approach of prevention, examines the forced recruitment of children and adolescents in Tumaco (Nariño), a municipality highly affected by this scourge. The next article, “Cultural accounting: an emerging field focused on safeguarding cultural heritage,” results from a collaboration between researchers from Colombia and Uruguay. It addresses the new interdisciplinary field of cultural accounting, its epistemological challenges, and its significance in culture. Finally, “Taxation models in Latin America and their impact on inequality” studies Argentina’s, Colombia’s, and Mexico’s tax structures and their relationship with the means of accumulation and international powers, as well as their effects on the distribution of wealth.

Thus, following objective processes of academic evaluation and rigorous editorial procedures, the journal continues its work to offer the most recent and valuable research and outreach contributions to the academic community.